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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

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Sadr to BBC: Iraqi Resistance is Legitimate - Hurriyet
11 US Troops Under Investigation for Mistreatment of Iraqis
- Milliyet 7/17
Bush Shows Full Support for Rove - Hurriyet 7/17
France to Deport Radical Imams - Hurriyet 7/17
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OPINION MAKERS

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Bombs Target Turkish Tourism -- Yeni Safak 7/17
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Britain Says It May Withdraw from Iraq - Radikal
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Iran Says it Blocked al-Qaeda Attacks Against Iranian Cities
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New Law Against Terror in UK - Cumhuriyet 7/17
British Right, Hooligans Unite Against Muslims - Cumhuriyet
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Ladin Aide Zawahiri Was KGB Operative - Zaman
Fear of Terror in Germany - Aksam 7/17
Oriana Fallaci: We Are at War with Islam - Cumhuriyet 7/17
Israeli Army Preparing to Strike Gaza - Cumhuriyet
US, Afghan Forces Kill 20 Insurgents - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Erdogan-Putin Meet in Sochi: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan met with President Vladimir Putin in Russia's Black Sea coastal town of Sochi over the weekend. The two leaders discussed the situation in Iraq, the price of Russian natural gas to Turkey, and reiterated their target of increasing bilateral trade from 10 to 25 billion USD. Putin said after meeting Erdogan that Russian-Turkish cooperation was not limited to the economy, adding that the political dialogue between the two countries has been 'at a good level.' Erdogan said the two countries can accomplish many things together. Reports say the two leaders also discussed the issue of ending the international isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, and putting the PKK on Russia's list of terrorist organizations. Erdogan will leave Sochi for Mongolia after meeting Putin over breakfast this morning.

Grossman Report Sparked Rovegate Scandal: A report written by the former US Ambassador to Turkey, Marc Grossman, sparked the 'Rovegate' scandal, Monday's "Hurriyet" reports, citing the New York Times. In his report, Grossman reportedly wrote that CIA operative Valerie Plame had attended a meeting regarding Iraq's alleged purchase of uranium from Niger. John Bolton, President Bush's candidate to head the US mission at the UN, is believed to have leaked Plame's name to Karl Rove, according to the report.

Bomb Kills British, Turkish Tourists in Kusadasi: A bomb exploded in a minibus in the western Turkish holiday resort of Kusadasi on Saturday, killing five people and injuring 13. One British citizen and one Irish woman were among the dead, along with three Turks, and another five Britons were among the injured. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said 'we condemn this repugnant act, which has ruined the lives of so many innocent people.' Prime Minister Erdogan

commented that 'this is what we have always worried about. Our security forces are taking all possible measures, but it is impossible to have 100 percent security.' Police suspect that plastic explosives were used in the attack, but say it appears unlikely that a suicide bomber was responsible. A Kurdish rebel group affiliated to the PKK, the Kurdistan Liberation Hawks (TAK), claimed responsibility for a bomb attack in the nearby resort of Cesme on July 10, in which 20 people were injured, including two foreign tourists. Dailies report British Ambassador Peter Westmacott as saying that the attacks should not discourage British tourists from traveling to Turkey. A PKK terrorist captured in Izmir told the police that the organization had deployed 75 terror teams to the Aegean region.

Syria's al-Shara on Turkey, the US, Israel, Iraq: Syria's Foreign Minister Faruk al-Shara told Monday's "Zaman" that Damascus would soon take important steps forward, including allowing new political parties, guaranteeing freedom of the press, and removing emergency rule in Syria. Shara said Syria is determined to become a 'full democracy.' Shara also said that the region needed Turkey to play a leading role, adding that the development of Turkey-Syrian ties would enhance the influence of Turkey in its region. The Syrian FM praised Ankara for defending its ties with Syria despite 'great pressure' coming from other countries. The improvement in Syrian-Turkish relations has been received positively in the Arab world,' Shara said, adding that the US is 'uneasy' over this development. Shara claimed that the US has been unable to raise its relations with Middle Eastern countries to a desired level due to Washington's insistence on viewing the region through Israeli eyes. Shara blamed the US for cooperating with illegal organizations in causing instability in the Middle East. He added that Israeli troops should pull out of the West Bank and Golan Heights before negotiating peace with Israel can be negotiated. 'Israel's withdrawal from Gaza is not sufficient,' Shara said. 'What about other areas under Israel's occupation? How can a Palestinian state be founded without the West Bank and east Jerusalem?' Shara asked. Shara also noted that it is impossible for Damascus to protect its 700 km border with Iraq on its own. 'Those who blame us for terrorist infiltrations do not control their side of the border,' he said, adding that Syria has been supporting the democratization process in Iraq.

Iranian Diplomat on Interpol List Detained in Istanbul: An Iranian diplomat, Massoud Amiri, was detained on July 6 at Istanbul Airport, where he had arrived to participate in a meeting in Ankara, "Milliyet" reports. Amiri was detained by Turkish officials because he was on a wanted list issued by the Argentine officials in Interpol. The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) said the police are not authorized to detain diplomats, and warned that Tehran could retaliate by arresting Turkish diplomats in Iran. Amiri was subsequently sent back to Iran, "Milliyet" reports.

Ocalan Ordered Killing of Dissident Kurd: Dailies continue commenting on the assassination of Kurdish activist Hikmet Fidan, a former official from the pro-Kurdish party DEHAP, who was allegedly shot to death by the PKK in Turkey's mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir on July 6. Sunday papers report that Zinnar Tarik, Fidan's son, claimed his father was killed for opposing PKK policies of armed violence. Kurds paying condolence visits to the Fidan family told the press that the order to kill Fidan had been issued by imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. Sunday papers also report the killing of Hasan Ozen, a former PKK camp leader in northern Iraq, in Austria. Ozen was allegedly shot to death in Austria for leaving the PKK to protest the increase in terrorist actions and for his opposition to statements by Abdullah Ocalan. Osman Ocalan Downplays Possibility of US Action, May Have Rejoined PKK: Osman Ocalan, who had reportedly broken away from the PKK to pursue political activity in northern Iraq, said he 'does not take seriously' reports that the US military has been given orders to arrest him and other PKK figures. Ocalan said that 'the US won't arrest me. It is US policy to maintain an alliance with all segments of the Kurds in Iraq.' There have been reports in recent days that Osman Ocalan has returned to the PKK.

Kurdish Party Wants Federation for Kurds in Turkey: A group from the pro-Kurdish Rights and Freedoms Party (Hak-Par) set up a stand in Diyarbakir to collect signatures calling for the establishment of a Turkish-Kurdish federation in Turkey, Sunday papers report. Hak-Par's provincial leader, Halis Nezan, said that the objective of the campaign is to support the establishment of a federation in Turkey similar to the one emerging in Iraq. Nezan said that Turkey, which demands a federal system for the 200,000 Turks in Cyprus, should meet similar demands from its 20 million Kurds. Hak-Par is chaired by Abdulmelik Firat, a former lawmaker and grandson of Sheikh Said, a rebel Kurdish leader who was hanged for revolting against the young Turkish republic in 1925. Hak-Par said the signatures calling for a Kurdish federation in

Turkey will be submitted to the EU, the UN, EU missions in Turkey, and the Turkish Parliament before October 3, the date for the start of EU-Turkey membership talks.

Turkey to Suggest Joint Operation Against the PKK: Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu will meet with his counterparts from Iraq, Iran, and Syria in Istanbul July 17-19 to urge Turkey's neighbors to launch a joint initiative against the PKK, Saturday's "Sabah" reports. Turkey wants PKK leaders such as Murat Karayilan and Cemil Bayik to be handed over. The Turks will also reportedly propose to the Iraqis a joint military operation against the PKK in the Kandil mountains. US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, had said in response to Prime Minister Erdogan's warning that Turkey may launch cross-border operations into Iraq in pursuit of terrorists that Iraq is a sovereign country, and that such issues should be dealt between Ankara and the Iraqi government. The interior ministers of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain will attend the Istanbul meeting.

Azerbaijani Delegations to Visit Turkish Cyprus: Three Azerbaijani delegations will travel to Turkish Cyprus to attend ceremonies in the breakaway Turkish enclave to mark its 'peace and freedom day' on the anniversary of Turkey's occupation of northern Cyprus on July 20, 1974, Monday papers report. An Azerbaijani delegation of officials and businessmen is to visit the 'TRNC' from July 22-27 to discuss trade and investment opportunities. A delegation from the Azerbaijani-Turkish Businessmen's Association will go to northern Cyprus from July 28-31. Prime Minister Erdogan praised the Azerbaijani efforts, saying the visits constitute a first step toward international recognition of the 'TRNC.'

PM Advisor Warns US Congress Against Armenian Drafts: In a letter to members of the US House of Representatives, Prime Minister Erdogan's advisor Egemen Bagis wrote that two draft resolutions concerning Armenian 'genocide' claims (H. Res. 316 introduced on June 14, 2005, and H. Res. 195 introduced on June 29, 2005) submitted by some Congressmen contained 'misinformation, baseless allegations, and false accusations' against Turkey. Bagis said the drafts 'misrepresented' a controversial chapter of Turkish-Armenian relations at a time when the Turkish government is taking positive steps towards neighboring Armenia. Bagis argued that the events of 1915 cannot be labeled as genocide, adding that the judgment of history should be left to historians. 'We do not want the US Congress making its judgment based on one-sided allegations,' Bagis wrote. He noted that the adoption of these resolutions would not help efforts to improve Turkish-Armenian relations, as the Armenian government and diaspora would only feel encouraged to seek political gains based on the genocide claims.

Turkey to Hand Over ISAF Command: Turkey is to hand over its command of the multinational brigade in Kabul to the Netherlands on July 20, and the command of ISAF to Italy early August, Sunday papers report. ISAF commanding General Erdagi said that, contrary to some recent press reports, Turkish troops in Afghanistan would not be actively involved in operations against terrorists there.

10 PKK Members Killed in Security Operations: Turkish troops reportedly killed 10 PKK fighters in clashes in a remote area of Turkey's Sirtak province, the governor's office said on Sunday. The soldiers seized a rocket launcher, rifles, grenades, and 25 kg of plastic explosives during the four-day operation. Meanwhile, four Turkish soldiers were injured, two seriously, when their vehicle struck a landmine in a rural area of Bitlis province on Sunday.

US Supports UN 'Alliance of Civilizations' Project: The US State Department praised Turkey and Spain for playing a leading role in the UN-sponsored 'Alliance of Civilizations' project. The initiative is aimed at bringing Muslim and Christian nations closer together. State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said the US would welcome initiatives that complement the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative (BMENAI).

EDITORIAL OPINION: Terrorism

"Ingratitude"
Zafer Atay commented in the social-economic "Dunya" (7/18):
"Details about the terrorists who carried out the London bombings point to enormous ingratitude on the part of the bombers, since all of them were enjoying the benefits of UK citizenship. But this kind of ingratitude does not apply to millions of Muslims living in Britain who respect the laws. These terrorists are clearly brain-washed puppets. There is also an odd situation concerning entry procedures to the UK. Ordinary tourists are asked to fill out a huge amount of paperwork, which is so burdensome that it may cause some to

give up on traveling there. But these terrorists enjoyed the ability to enter and live in the United Kingdom. There are ongoing cases with many European countries as well as the US and North Africa when they refuse to extradite terrorists. . Let's not forget that Belgium continues to shelter a Turkish terrorist based on the excuse that a fully automatic weapon was not used in the killing."

"The Alliance of Civilizations"

Mim Kemal Oke wrote in the conservative "HO Tercuman" (7/18): "The current period in world affairs offers a clear dilemma. On the one hand, the US seeks to establish full control over the international system. But the sole superpower has failed to bring stability to Iraq, and continues to be criticized all around the world. On the other hand, the US effort to shape the world is facing both global terror and a global social opposition. But this social opposition remains weak and inefficient next to the growing force of terrorism. Given the current circumstances, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's initiative for the 'alliance of civilizations' is an important development. Annan's project is different from the US effort to transform a conflict of civilizations to peace between civilizations. The term 'alliance' emphasizes that the initiative falls outside of the US purview. Turkey and Spain will be the hosts of this very important project. Its success will provide a philosophical basis for Turkish diplomacy."

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